



Town of Blades
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL
20 W Fourth Street
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

***Town Council Meeting
BVFC, East Fifth Street, Blades, DE
7:00PM
September 14, 2020***

Present: Mayor John Reiss, Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield, Councilor Ashley Hudson, Councilor Donald Trice, Councilor Russell Joseph and Town Administrator Lisa Marks.

Meeting officially opened at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the August 10, 2020, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form by Councilor Donald Trice; seconded by Councilor Russell Joseph; Motion passed. Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield - Yes, Councilor Russell Joseph – Yes, Councilor Ashley Hudson – Yes, Councilor Donald Trice – Yes. Carried

Minutes from the August 24, 2020, Town Council Special Meeting: Motion to accept in written form by Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield; seconded by Councilor Donald Trice; Motion passed. Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield - Yes, Councilor Russell Joseph – Yes, Councilor Ashley Hudson – Yes, Councilor Donald Trice – Yes. Carried

Police Report – Submitted by Chief Paul Anthony. Motion to accept all reports as submitted in writing by Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield; seconded by Ashley Hudson; Motion passed. Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield - Yes, Councilor Russell Joseph – Yes, Councilor Ashley Hudson – Yes, Councilor Donald Trice – Yes. Carried

BEDCO – No report at the time of this meeting.

P&Z – No report at the time of this meeting.

❖ Committee Reports:

- Housing/Code – Report submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Marcus Trammell.
- Water report - Submitted by Water Supervisor, Frank O'Day.
- Streets – No Report submitted.
- Parks & Cemeteries – No Report submitted.
- Mayor's Report – No Report submitted.
- Town Administrator Report – Report submitted by Town Administrator Lisa Marks.

❖ Old Business:

- Public Hearing and Second Reading Resolution Change 411- Water Rates and Penalties: Resolution read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks.
- Police Chief's contract extension: Contract was rescinded before the August 24, 2020, Town Council Special Meeting.



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❖ New Business:

- First Reading to Repeal and Replace Ordinance 219 – Dogs: Tabled until after further discussion at the September 29, 2020 Town Council Workshop.
- Third Street Speed Bump: After discussing the safety issues revolving around Fire Department response time vs personal vehicles speeding, a motion was made. Motion to remove speed bumps on Third Street by Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield; seconded by Councilor Ashley Hudson. Motion passed. Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield - Yes, Councilor Russell Joseph – No, Councilor Ashley Hudson – Yes, Councilor Donald Trice – Did not vote. Carried (Note: After motion carried, it was requested to have more Police presence for speed control.)
- Police Department Accreditation, Grants, Policies & Procedures, Part-Time Officer, and Body Cameras: Vice-Mayor Lee Benningfield and Police Chief Paul Anthony addressed upcoming changes due to State reforms. The Town needs to start the process of becoming an Accredited Police Department. Accreditation is a lengthy process, which could take up to the year 2022 to complete. Lexipol will provide public safety policy standards as directives, keeping officers updated with policies and changes. The cost of body cams and Cradlepoints can be offset with grant monies. The Chief will have more information at the next Council meeting. The Chief would like for Council to consider hiring a part-time officer that will be dedicated to traffic. Speeding tickets on Sussex Highway could pay for the officer's salary and add revenue to the Town.

❖ Good of the Community

- A resident expressed concerns about construction dumpsters and vehicles parked on Fifth Street and Sixth Street.
- A resident inquired if it would be possible to have “No Thru Traffic” signs put up on Summit Drive and Meadow Court.
- A resident expressed concerns about the weeds growing in the sidewalk on Market Street: between Fourth Street and Sixth Street.
- A resident expressed concerns about water drainage in Little Meadows and the effect it is having on certain properties.

Entered into Executive Session: N/A

Adjourned Executive Session: N/A

Mayor John Reiss motioned to adjourn the September 14, 2020, Blades Town Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Donald Trice.

Mayor John Reiss adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 7:47p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Raines
Town Clerk